

MARY L. TWEDDLE.

APRIL 2, 1896.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. ANDERSON, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 5793.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 5793) granting a pension to Mary L. Tweddle, submit the following report:

William Tweddle, the husband of this petitioner, served as captain of Company K, Tenth Kentucky Volunteer Infantry, from November 2, 1861, until August 7, 1862, when his resignation, tendered by reason of having contracted rheumatism, affecting the back and lower extremities, was accepted.

He was pensioned by the Pension Office at the rate of \$5 per month from discharge; \$15 from May 13, 1882, and \$20 from March 24, 1886, on account of lumbago and chronic diarrhea, and, as will be seen by the foregoing rates, his disability gradually increased until he was allowed the total of his rank as a captain.

He died August 22, 1892, of congestion of the brain.

The petitioner applied to the Pension Bureau for a pension under the general laws, furnishing medical testimony that Captain Tweddle's death was due to the lumbago or rheumatism for which he was pensioned, and also the certificate of the board of health, made upon the return of the attending physician, showing that the primary cause of death was congestion of the brain and the remote cause rheumatism and diarrhea, but the claim was rejected in the Pension Bureau upon the ground that it was not shown from a medical standpoint that the cause of death was due to the disabilities for which this officer was pensioned.

Both the officer and the petitioner had been previously married, and the fact of death of the former consorts was duly shown in evidence on file in the Pension Office.

The petitioner married the officer on January 5, 1891, and consequently can have no status for pension under the act of June 27, 1890, which act requires that a widow of a soldier shall have been married to such soldier prior to the passage of such act.

The medical testimony furnished by Drs. Mannakee and Muncaster, of this city, physicians of high standing, shows that the congestion of brain was no doubt a result of the heart trouble from which the officer had suffered as a result of the rheumatism, which for a period had only affected the lumbar muscles, but became general thereafter.

Medical authorities admit that congestion of the brain, the result of impeded return of the blood from the head, may be caused by impediments within the circulation, such as disease of heart.

While the connection of the death cause with the pensioned disabilities may not have been sufficiently shown by the testimony of the attending physicians, your committee believe that the case from all its surroundings is such a one as to present equitable features, and do recommend that the bill be passed.

The petitioner is old and dependent upon the assistance of friends and a daughter who is hardly able to assist her by reason of having a large family of her own to support.

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